(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

Skill Development Courses for Handicapped

385. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of the handicapped trained to become economically independent through skill development in the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) whether Government have any plan to start such skill development courses for this category of people;

(c) whether her Ministry intend to enlist the cooperation of the Corporate Sector in the rehabilitation of the handicapped; and

(d) what incentives it proposes to offer to the corporate sector to undertake employment of large number of handicapped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) No such information is available. However, there are 17 Vocational Training Centres (VTCs) under the Directorate General of Employment and Training, Ministry of Labour. These centres evaluate the residual capacity of the disabled and put them into jobs for self-employment according to their capability. The number of persons with disabilities rehabilitated by these centres is given at Statement. (*see below*)

(c) and (d) (The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has had preliminary discussions with the Department of Company Affairs to explore the possibility of mobilising the corporate world and companies in providing support to the social services sector).

In order to provide job opportunities to the persons with disabilities, a provision has already been made under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and full Participation) Act, 1995 the appropriate governments and the local authorities shall, within the limits of

their economic capacity and development, provide incentives to employers both in public and private sectors to ensure that at least five per cent of their work force comprises of persons with disabilities. The Ministry of SJ&E, in accordance with the provision, has requested the Ministry of Finance to appropriate action in this regard.

Statement

Vocational Rehabilitation Centres

(In thousand)

	Clients Admitted	Clients Rehabi-litated	Clients under evaluation at the end of the Year
1993	18.2	5.7	1.9
1994	19.9	5.9	1.9
1995	17.9	5.2	2.0
1996	22.8	6.7	2.1
1997	22.4	5.8	2.3

Grant for mentally and physically handicapped

386. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS MABLE REBELLO:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government still give only Rs. 350/- per month as grant-in-aid to NGOs to run the residential facilities for the mentally and physically handicapped; and

(b) whether Government plan to enhance this amount to reasonable level so that the NGOs can offer reasonably better services to these handicapped who cannot help themselves?